captioned, "Meat doesn't increase risk of cancer, smoking does". Which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 5th February, 2002;

(b) whether according to medical theory smoking causes half of the world's cancer; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to disseminate the ill effects of smoking through Government electronic media?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Scientific investigations have confirmed the association of smoking with various diseases and have provided additional evidence implicating cigarette smoking as a cause of coronary artery disease, stroke, obstructive lung disease, peripheral vascular disease, pregnancy complications including intra-uterine growth retardation and a variety of neoplasms including cancers of oral cavity, larynx, oesophagus, urinary bladder, kidney, stomach, pancreas, cervix and haematopoietic system. Recent studies have also established close association between tuberculosis and tobacco use. As per the 40-year follow-up study conducted in the United Kingdom, 50 per cent of total smokers die due to smoking related diseases.

The Government has banned tobacco advertisement in the Government-run electronic media and has been taking steps to disseminate information on the ill effects of smoking by telecasting strong health messages throughout the country. Wide publicity was given through the Public Broadcaster media on prohibition of smoking in public places in pursuance to the directions of Hon'bfe Supreme Court issued on 2.11.2001. The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation ofTrade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001, which-has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001, inter-alia, contains provisions for prohibiting advertisement of all tobacco products.

ERC for reduction in annual expenditure

†*99.SHRILAJPATRAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government had considered the proposals to reduce the annual expenditure after the receipt of report of the Expenditure Reforms Commission;

(b) if so, the items considered to reduce the expenditure by Government;

(c) the amount of expenditure proposed to be reduced annually after the consideration of the report; and

(d) the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d)The terms of reference of the Expenditure Reforms Commission included, inter alia, the need to foster convergence and avoiding overlap in the functioning of different Central Government Ministries/Departments/ Organisations; review the adequacy of staffing and suggest a road map for reducing the functions, activities and administrative structure of the Central Government.

The Expenditure Reforms Commission has inter alia recommended winding up Film division, of Publications Division and transferring their fuctions to other organisations of the Central/State Governments; letting Film Industry handle institutions like Film & Television Institute of India, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Directorate of Film Festivals and Children's Film Society of India; disinvesting National Film Development Corporation Limited and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited and reducing/rationalizing the role of other media units.

The Government has not accepted the recommendations regarding closure or hiving of the media units in view of the functional requirements of government publicity and the needs of the media and entertainment sectors. However, 1334 posts have been identified for abolition in a phased manner, out of which 334 posts have already been abolished.

The total government expenditure could increase or decrease depending upon the publicity need of the government, the promotional activities of the entertainment sector, the broadcasting sector and the needs of the public service broadcaster (Doordarshan).